



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of May 20, 2018

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a “worship discussion” guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Numbers 26:1-65 “A New Generation”

- **Is there anything in your family that has been passed down from one generation to another? What is it? Why was it meaningful for this heirloom, tradition or story to be passed on to the next generation?**

¹After the plague, the LORD said to Moses and to Eleazar the son of Aaron, the priest, ²“Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, from twenty years old and upward, by their fathers' houses, all in Israel who are able to go to war.” ³And Moses and Eleazar the priest spoke with them in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying, ⁴“Take a census of the people, from twenty years old and upward,” as the LORD commanded Moses. The people of Israel who came out of the land of Egypt were:

- **God visited a plague on Israel for their Baal worship at immorality at Mount Peor ([Numbers 25:1, 3, 8-9](#)). How many Israelites died in the plague? ([Numbers 25:9](#))**
- **“After the plague”, the Lord prepared to bring Israel into the Promised Land. What did the Lord ask Moses and Eleazar to do? (1-2)**
- **The Lord instructed Moses and Eleazar to count His people because His people count to Him. An entirely new generation of the children of Israel was preparing to enter the Promised Land. Whom specifically did the Lord ask Moses and Eleazar to count? (2,4)**
- **The census was important for two reasons. The first was for Israel to know the strength of their army (2). Why is this important? ([Luke 14:31-32](#))**

⁵Reuben, the firstborn of Israel; the sons of Reuben: of Hanoch, the clan of the Hanochites; of Pallu, the clan of the Palluites; ⁶of Hezron, the clan of the Hezronites; of Carmi, the clan of the Carmites. ⁷These are the clans of the Reubenites, and those listed were 43,730. ⁸And the sons of Pallu: Eliab. ⁹The sons of Eliab: Nemuel, Dathan, and Abiram. These are the Dathan and Abiram, chosen from the congregation, who contended against Moses and Aaron in the company of Korah, when they

contended against the LORD ¹⁰and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up together with Korah, when that company died, when the fire devoured 250 men, and they became a warning. ¹¹But the sons of Korah did not die.

- **In the tribe of Reuben, the children of Korah, the rebel who died and took at least 253 others with him ([Numbers 16:35](#)), survived (11). What role did Korah's children perform later in their lives? ([I Chronicles 26:19](#); [II Chronicles 20:19](#); Title of [Psalm 42](#); [87](#))**

¹²The sons of Simeon according to their clans: of Nemuel, the clan of the Nemuelites; of Jamin, the clan of the Jaminites; of Jachin, the clan of the Jachinites; ¹³of Zerah, the clan of the Zerahites; of Shaul, the clan of the Shaulites. ¹⁴These are the clans of the Simeonites, 22,200.

¹⁵The sons of Gad according to their clans: of Zephon, the clan of the Zephonites; of Haggi, the clan of the Haggites; of Shuni, the clan of the Shunites; ¹⁶of Ozni, the clan of the Oznites; of Eri, the clan of the Erites; ¹⁷of Arod, the clan of the Arodites; of Areli, the clan of the Arelites. ¹⁸These are the clans of the sons of Gad as they were listed, 40,500.

¹⁹The sons of Judah were Er and Onan; and Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan. ²⁰And the sons of Judah according to their clans were: of Shelah, the clan of the Shelanites; of Perez, the clan of the Perezites; of Zerah, the clan of the Zerahites. ²¹And the sons of Perez were: of Hezron, the clan of the Hezronites; of Hamul, the clan of the Hamulites. ²²These are the clans of Judah as they were listed, 76,500.

²³The sons of Issachar according to their clans: of Tola, the clan of the Tolaite; of Puvah, the clan of the Punites; ²⁴of Jashub, the clan of the Jashubites; of Shimron, the clan of the Shimronites. ²⁵These are the clans of Issachar as they were listed, 64,300.

²⁶The sons of Zebulun, according to their clans: of Sered, the clan of the Seredites; of Elon, the clan of the Elonites; of Jahleel, the clan of the Jahleelites. ²⁷These are the clans of the Zebulunites as they were listed, 60,500.

²⁸ The sons of Joseph according to their clans: Manasseh and Ephraim.²⁹ The sons of Manasseh: of Machir, the clan of the Machirites; and Machir was the father of Gilead; of Gilead, the clan of the Gileadites.³⁰ These are the sons of Gilead: of Iezer, the clan of the Iezerites; of Helek, the clan of the Helekites;³¹ and of Asriel, the clan of the Asrielites; and of Shechem, the clan of the Shechemites;³² and of Shemida, the clan of the Shemidaites; and of Hopher, the clan of the Hopherites.³³ Now Zelophehad the son of Hopher had no sons, but daughters. And the names of the daughters of Zelophehad were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.³⁴ These are the clans of Manasseh, and those listed were 52,700.

³⁵ These are the sons of Ephraim according to their clans: of Shuthelah, the clan of the Shuthelahites; of Becher, the clan of the Becherites; of Tahan, the clan of the Tahanites.³⁶ And these are the sons of Shuthelah: of Eran, the clan of the Eranites.³⁷ These are the clans of the sons of Ephraim as they were listed, 32,500. These are the sons of Joseph according to their clans.

³⁸ The sons of Benjamin according to their clans: of Bela, the clan of the Belaites; of Ashbel, the clan of the Ashbelites; of Ahiram, the clan of the Ahiramites;³⁹ of Shephupham, the clan of the Shuphamites; of Hupham, the clan of the Huphamites.⁴⁰ And the sons of Bela were Ard and Naaman: of Ard, the clan of the Ardites; of Naaman, the clan of the Naamites.⁴¹ These are the sons of Benjamin according to their clans, and those listed were 45,600.

⁴² These are the sons of Dan according to their clans: of Shuham, the clan of the Shuhamites. These are the clans of Dan according to their clans.⁴³ All the clans of the Shuhamites, as they were listed, were 64,400.

⁴⁴ The sons of Asher according to their clans: of Imnah, the clan of the Imnites; of Ishvi, the clan of the Ishvites; of Beriah, the clan of the Beriites.⁴⁵ Of the sons of Beriah: of Heber, the clan of the Heberites; of Malchiel, the clan of the Malchielites.⁴⁶ And the name of the daughter of Asher was Serah.⁴⁷ These are the clans of the sons of Asher as they were listed, 53,400.

⁴⁸ The sons of Naphtali according to their clans: of Jahzeel, the clan of the Jahzeelites; of Guni, the clan of the Gunites;⁴⁹ of Jezer, the clan of the Jezerites; of Shillemites, the clan of the Shillemites.⁵⁰ These are the clans of Naphtali according to their clans, and those listed were 45,400.

⁵¹ This was the list of the people of Israel, 601,730.

⁵² The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,⁵³ "Among these the land shall be divided for inheritance according to the number of names.⁵⁴ To a large tribe you shall give a large inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a small inheritance; every tribe shall be given its inheritance in proportion to its list.⁵⁵ But the land shall be divided by lot. According to the names of the tribes

of their fathers they shall inherit.⁵⁶ Their inheritance shall be divided according to lot between the larger and the smaller."

- **What was the second reason for numbering the people? (52-56)**

⁵⁷ This was the list of the Levites according to their clans: of Gershon, the clan of the Gershonites; of Kohath, the clan of the Kohathites; of Merari, the clan of the Merarites.⁵⁸ These are the clans of Levi: the clan of the Libnites, the clan of the Hebronites, the clan of the Mahlites, the clan of the Mushites, the clan of the Korahites. And Kohath was the father of Amram.⁵⁹ The name of Amram's wife was Jochebed the daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi in Egypt. And she bore to Amram Aaron and Moses and Miriam their sister.⁶⁰ And to Aaron were born Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.⁶¹ But Nadab and Abihu died when they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD.⁶² And those listed were 23,000, every male from a month old and upward. For they were not listed among the people of Israel, because there was no inheritance given to them among the people of Israel.

⁶³ These were those listed by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who listed the people of Israel in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho.⁶⁴ But among these there was not one of those listed by Moses and Aaron the priest, who had listed the people of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai.⁶⁵ For the LORD had said of them, "They shall die in the wilderness." Not one of them was left, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

- **Among the twelve tribes of Israel numbered as fighting men, one tribe was not included. Which tribe was not included? (57) Why (62; [Numbers 1:45, 47-53](#))**
- **The entire generation that had been counted in the first census failed to enter the Promised Land and died (64), except for three people. Who were those three? (65)**
- **The Lord uses this second census for Israel's spiritual instruction. He uses it to warn that sin has consequences. Can you share a time when the Lord lovingly warned you that sin leads to death?**
- **In Sunday's worship service, we sang John Stocker's hymn, *Thy Mercy My God*. [Read, sing or listen to](#) that hymn together. How does God's mercy lead us to repentance?**
- **Last Sunday we celebrated Pentecost, and [our Declaration of Faith](#) reflected on the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church. What ministry does the Holy Spirit have among us today?**
- **Take time to pray together. Part of Sunday's [Preparation for Worship](#) was [Psalm 78:4-7](#), verses that reflect on Israel's wilderness years. Read that passage aloud to begin a time of prayer.**

Sermon Notes

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Numbers 26:1-65](#).

- Just as there was a census at the beginning of Numbers, here there is a second one
- The New Testament book of Acts includes a census of sorts before the Day of Pentecost
- God is intolerant of sin and rebellion (63-65). [Romans 6:23](#) tells us that, “the wages of sin is death”
- God lovingly warns His people. The past is helpful in this way....
 - “After the plague” (1)
 - “And the earth opened” (10)
 - “Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan” (19)
 - “Nadab and Abihu died when they offered unauthorized fire” (61)
- This whole chapter points to:
 - Warfare (1-4)
 - Journey
 - Generations
 - Inheritance
- Families and tribes matter to God
- Every one of God’s people gets an inheritance

Questions about this week’s study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org
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